

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 25, 26, 28, 30 and 31 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene, and data for a significance hierarchical level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back;

a display device that extracts ~~reads~~ images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes having the significance level externally designated and above, from the scene information stored in the storage device and concurrently displays the extracted images chronologically ~~based on an external designation of the hierarchical level~~;

a selection device that receives a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

a playback device that plays back the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames selected by the selection device.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device chronologically displays a specified number of the images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes concurrently.

3. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device refers to the scene information in the storage device when a significance hierarchical level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having the significance hierarchical level designated and above.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

5. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance hierarchical level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

6. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device displays the scene played back by the playback device together with the images of the representative frames of the scenes, and displays data for discriminating representative frames corresponding to the scene being currently played back from the other representative frames.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

8. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed, synchronizing with the images being played back by the playback device.

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the display device changes a display condition and selects whether change of the display condition is synchronized with the images being played back by the playback device, based on an external instruction.

10. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the playback device plays back one of the scenes corresponding to one of the images of the representative frames of the scenes, which is externally designated among the images of the representative frames of the scenes displayed by the display device.

11. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a storage device that stores scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, and data for a significance

~~hierarchical~~ level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back; [[and]]

a display device that extracts ~~reads~~ images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes having the significance level externally designated and above, from the storage device and concurrently displays the extracted images chronologically ~~based on an external designation of the hierarchical level~~; and

a selection device that receives a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed representative frames on the basis of an external designation.

12. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display device refers to the scene information in the storage device when a significance ~~hierarchical~~ level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having the significance ~~hierarchical~~ level designated and above.

13. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

14. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display device displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance ~~hierarchical~~ level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

15. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

16. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising:
storing scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene and data for a significance hierarchical level of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back;
receiving an external designation of a significance hierarchical level;
concurrently displaying images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes having the significance level externally designated and above among stored in the scene information stored in the storing step, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically, ~~based on an external designation of the hierarchical level;~~
receiving a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and
playing back the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames selected in the selecting step.

17. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the display step chronologically displays a specified number of the images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes concurrently.

18. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

19. (Currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance ~~hierarchical~~ level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

20. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step displays the scene played back in the playback step together with the images of the representative frames of the scenes, and displays data for discriminating representative frames corresponding to the scene being currently played back from the other representative frames.

21. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

22. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed, synchronizing with the images being played back in the playback step.

23. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the display step changes a display condition and selects whether changes of the display condition is synchronized with the images being played back in the playback step, based on an external instruction.

24. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the playback step plays back one of the scenes corresponding to one of the images of the representative frames of the scenes, which is externally designated among the images of the representative frames of the scenes displayed in the display step.

25. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising:
storing scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene and data for a significance hierarchical level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back;
concurrently displaying images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes having the significance level externally designated and above among the scene information stored in the storing step, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically, ~~based on an external designation of the hierarchical level~~; and
receiving a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation.

26. (Currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display step refers to the scene information in the storage device when a significance hierarchical level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having the significance hierarchical level designated and above.

27. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

28. (Currently amended) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display step displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance hierarchical level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

29. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

30. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium that stores image processing program codes for playing back a moving picture, the computer readable storage medium storing:

a code for storing scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene and data for a significance hierarchical level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back;

a code for concurrently displaying images of the representative frames of plurality of the scenes having the significance level externally designated and above among the scene information stored in the storing step, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically, based on an external designation of the hierarchical level;

a code for receipt of a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

a code for playing back the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames selected in the selecting step.

31. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium that stores image processing program codes for playing back a moving picture, the computer readable storage medium storing:

a code for storing scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene and data for a significance hierarchical level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back;

a code for concurrently displaying images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes having the significance level externally designated and above among the

scene information stored in the storing step, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically, ~~based on an external designation of the hierarchical level;~~ and a code for receipt of a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation.